

## **Testimony on 2/23/09 before the State of Connecticut, Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee Regarding the Film Industry Tax Credit- SB 933**

Chairpersons Daily, Staples and members of the Committee-

My name is Joyce Boncal and I live in Newington. I own a public relations business called Advertise You.

I am here to request the committee not recommend cutting or limiting the tax credits presently allowed the film industry. A few years ago the State of Connecticut made a wise decision to give tax credits to the film industry, with those credits being greater than what other states were giving. The plan worked, and film directors and producers started making movies in Connecticut. Connecticut started offering courses since a need was there for trained technicians. Don't stop the one industry in Connecticut that is growing. We need the jobs this industry provides.

Some nay-sayers point out the jobs and money from film-making went to Fairfield County where the money isn't needed. What about the film studio company that wants to move to South Windsor? In the February 19th issue of the *Hartford Business Journal*, it was reported up to 2000 jobs would be created by the S. Windsor project and generate \$400 million in annual spending. According to the HBJ article, the developer, Pacifica Ventures, is also considering sites in Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. If the tax credit is lowered or eliminated, Pacifica won't build here.

Tax credits are one of the few things we've got to offer the film industry. It's certainly not our weather that limits the number days movies can be filmed here. It's not our trained work force because film technicians and experienced film personnel are limited in Connecticut. It's the tax credits. Take them away and the film-makers will go away.

I talked to a film producer this past summer. She said the tax credit was one of the main reasons she was looking at Connecticut as a place to make her movie. Massachusetts also offers tax credits. According to the Massachusetts Film Office, for every dollar of economic activity brought into the State, it cost the State 5 cents. If the tax advantage we offer the film industry is taken away, the playing field is leveled. Film producers may go elsewhere. That's lost jobs.

Everyday we hear of companies moving out of Connecticut because it is so expensive to operate a business here. We need this industry to stay in Connecticut.